

For Immediate Release

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National Diabetes Education Program Receives American Diabetes Association's Distinguished Service Medal

— Federally-sponsored Program Presented with Charles H. Best Medal —

Alexandria, VA (June 20, 2005) – The American Diabetes Association (ADA), the nation's leading voluntary health organization in the fight against diabetes, announced today that the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) received the Association's prestigious Charles H. Best Medal for Distinguished Service in the Cause of Diabetes at the organization's 65th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, which ran from June 10-14. The award was accepted on behalf of the NDEP by its Executive Committee chairman, James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD along with Executive Committee members Judith Fradkin, M.D., National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Frank Vinicor, M.D., Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lawrence Blonde, M.D., Ochsner Clinic Foundation, and Charles Clark, M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine.

The Charles H. Best Medal for Distinguished Service in the Cause of Diabetes is named for Dr. Best, the co-discoverer of insulin. The award honors distinguished service in the field of diabetes, including both scientific and nonscientific endeavors.

"On behalf of the American Diabetes Association, we are thrilled to present this prestigious award to the National Diabetes Education Program," said Alan Cherrington, PhD, President of the American Diabetes Association. "The program's contributions to the diabetes community directly support ADA's mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people living with diabetes."

The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), founded in 1997, is a federally-sponsored initiative that involves public and private partners to improve the treatment and outcomes for people with diabetes, to promote early diagnosis and to prevent the onset of diabetes.

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly sponsor the program with the participation of over 200 partner organizations, including the ADA.

NDEP faces the daily challenge of increasing awareness of the seriousness of diabetes, its risk factors and implementing strategies for preventing diabetes and its complications among high risk groups. Through program partnerships with other organizations concerned about diabetes and the health status of their constituents, NDEP's comprehensive programs disseminate information to the media, collaborate with partners on education activities and influence the health delivery system to improve quality and access.

More than 13,000 top scientists, physicians and other health care professionals from around the world shared cutting-edge research, treatment recommendations and advances toward a cure for diabetes at the Association's 65th Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the body's ability to produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone that allows blood sugar to enter the cells of the body and be used for energy. 18.2 million Americans have diabetes. And, an additional 41 million people have pre-diabetes. Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the United States and it has no cure.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's premier voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. The Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. Founded in 1940, the Association provides services to hundreds of communities across the country. For more information please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or visit www.diabetes.org. Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

For more information about the National Diabetes Education Program, visit www.ndep.nih.gov

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